ISSUE 02

AGRIVIEW

MARCH 2007

VOLUME 3

Keeping calves healthy

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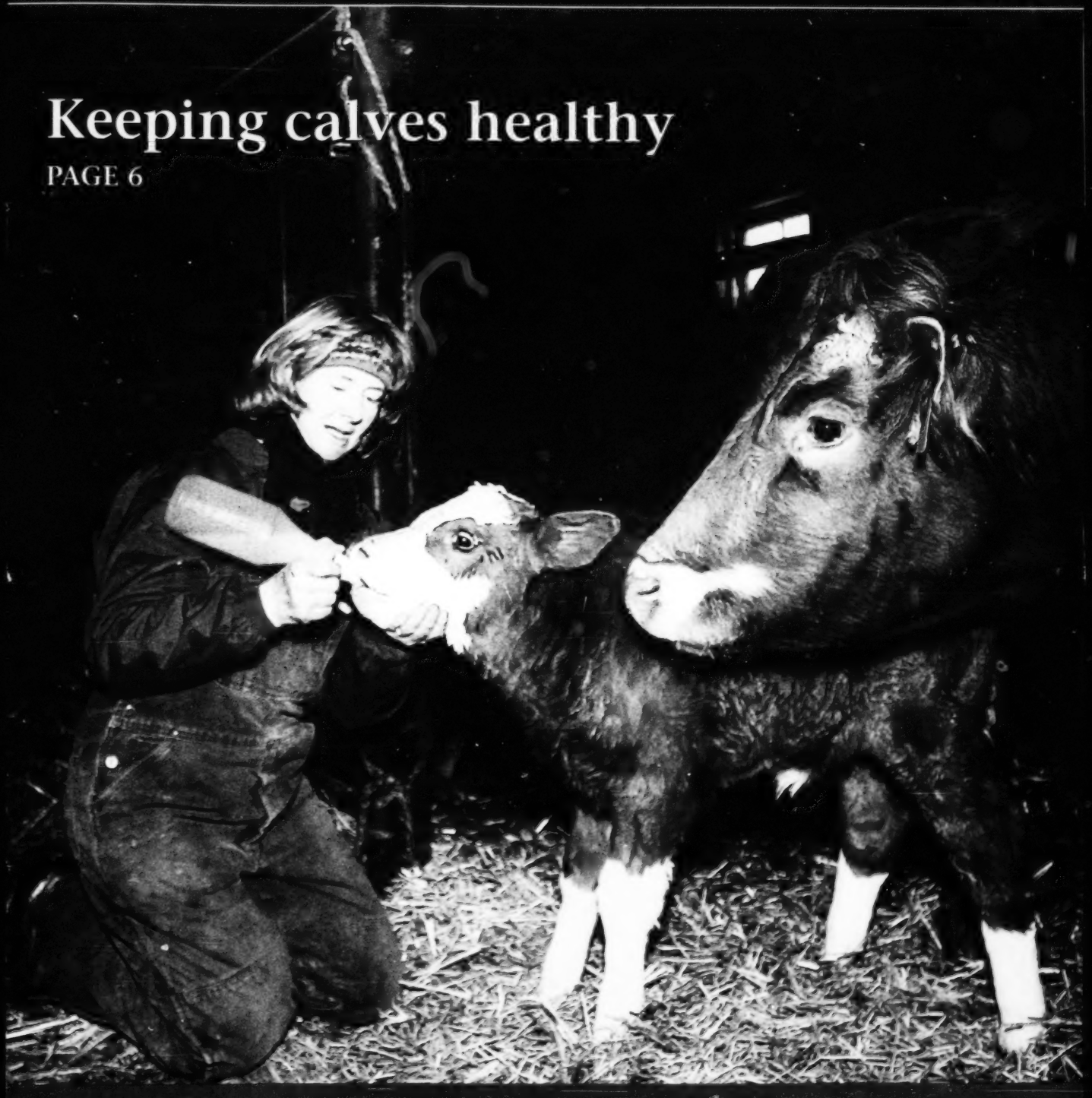

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Minister's Message

As Minister of Agriculture and Food, my primary concerns are those issues that directly impact the well-being of Saskatchewan's agriculture industry and its producers. That is why my government and I have so passionately embraced the Canadian Wheat Board debate. Sound reasoning is what is needed – especially when the federal government has, with little thought, taken aim at an institution that provides a significant financial benefit to grain producers in Western Canada.

On my recent trade mission overseas, I met with the many companies that have had a strong business relationship with the CWB. Along with these companies, I also visited the CWB offices in both China and Japan to discuss the impact the loss of the single desk would have on producers.

About 95 per cent of all wheat and barley sales are exported outside of North America. The CWB has been a very effective marketer in many offshore countries, including China and Japan. In 2005, the CWB sold more than $300 million worth of cereals to Japan, and has developed a growing market for Canadian barley. Since 1960, the CWB has sold more than 115 million tonnes of wheat to China. Based on the last two crop seasons, China has become the CWB's largest market for wheat.

The CWB has worked hard to develop a brand that has made Canadian wheat and barley very desirable, not only in China and Japan, but in many offshore countries. This hard work would be lost if the CWB single desk were to end.

Producers will have to consider the work the CWB has done in creating this "Canadian" brand when they vote in the upcoming barley plebiscite. Who will best represent producers' interests in getting the highest return from all the diverse markets around the world – the CWB or private marketers?

My government and I have said all along that producers should decide the future of the CWB, and we were encouraged when the federal government announced the barley plebiscite. However, we are very concerned about the inappropriateness of their three-option question. We have been very clear that we see only two options for farmers to choose from: either the single-desk continues, or it does not. The evidence is clear. **There is no such thing as a workable dual market for the CWB. As Professor Murray Fulton of the University of Saskatchewan noted in a recent report, "the most likely impact of removing the single-desk selling powers is that the CWB will cease to exist."**

This is clear even to those not directly involved in this debate. Standard and Poor's recently downgraded the CWB's credit rating - not as a result of how the CWB is being operated or its current financial situation, but as a direct result of the federal government's lack of support for the CWB and their determination to bring the single desk to an end.

We cannot have another incident like the federal government's unilateral elimination of the Crow Benefit, which has directly contributed to the hardships most producers are dealing with today. The loss of the CWB will cost Western Canadian producers between $530 million and $655 million. In Saskatchewan alone, the costs would be between $265 million and $328 million. This is not a loss our producers can afford.

Mark Wartman

Honourable Mark Wartman
Minister of Agriculture and Food

PROVINCE PROCLAIMS RURAL WOMEN'S MONTH IN SASKATCHEWAN

The month of March has been proclaimed as Rural Women's Month in Saskatchewan.

"Women who live in rural areas of the province have always made a major contribution to Saskatchewan's economic and social development," Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman said.

"Rural women have provided leadership in the development of health care, educaton and social services in Saskatchewan, in addition to running farms and businesses. It is important that we recognize their achievements," he said.

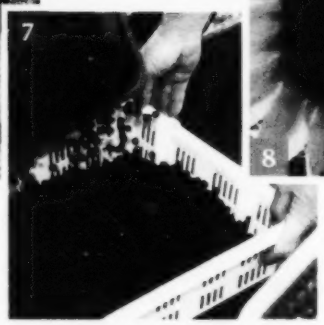
Activities throughout the month will raise awareness and appreciation of women's role in Saskatchewan's past and present.

Rural Women's Month will be observed in conjunction with a variety of events held in March by various women's groups in communities across the province. These events are organized in association with the United Nation's International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8. Saskatchewan IWD events are supported through an annual grant program funded by the Status of Women Office of Saskatchewan Labour.

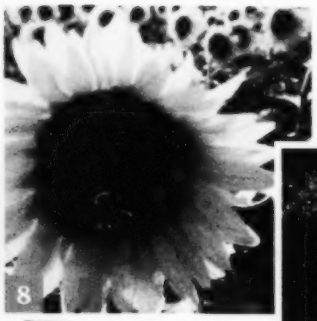
The proclamation of Rural Women's Month is the result of requests from the Saskatchewan Women's Institutes (SWI), the Partners for Rural Family Support of Humboldt, Sask., and the Women's Advisory Committee of the National Farmers' Union.

STORY SNAPSHOTS

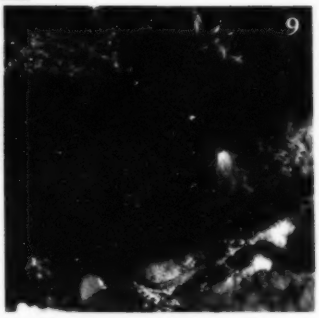
Soil temperature and early seeding



Innovator's vision could take Saskatoons to the next level



Growing the Saskatchewan Sunflower Industry



Enhancing Canada's feed ban

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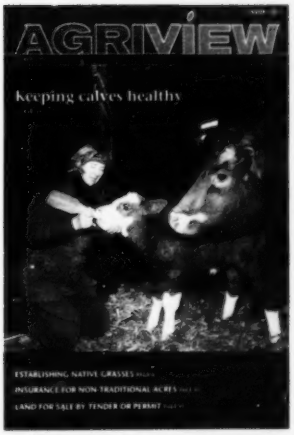

June Mebs of Meb's Ranch near Broadview.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

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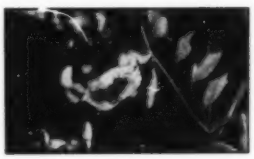
To treat or not to treat - that is the question

by Dale Risula, P.Ag
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

A common question many producers have asked over the years is whether seed treatment is beneficial or not. While researchers who've endeavored to answer this question have consistently proven that seed treatment can benefit crop performance, there are times when treatment may not offer the full advantages producers may expect.



Certain seed treatments are designed to offer protection from specific diseases, and others from specific insects. They will be most effective when environmental conditions do not overwhelm the capability of the chemical. Healthy seed works in synergy with the chemical to help maximize the overall benefit. These two factors working together will have a much better chance of warding off problems associated with the disease or insect.

Under certain circumstances, special consideration should be given. For example, cereals are susceptible to smut diseases that can build up in a seed population if not treated at least every second year.

Because kabuli chickpea varieties are very susceptible to seed rot from Pythium, it is necessary to treat the seed. All chickpea seed intended for planting should also be assessed for seed-borne diseases such as ascochyta blight, and a seed treatment should be used if the disease is present.

Wireworm infestations have increased over the past few years in Saskatchewan. Land which has been recently broke from long term grass production is often more prone to wireworm infestations and is a strong candidate for seed treatment. Flea beetle populations may be high in areas where canola or mustard is grown, particularly when there are dry spring conditions.

Treating the seed close to seeding time is recommended to reduce chemical degradation and, in some cases, to reduce the antagonistic effect chemicals might have on germination and vigor of some seeds. Some researchers have shown that hull-less barley may be susceptible to this phenomenon.

Ensuring that your seed is good quality will pay dividends. Planting clean or pedigreed seed may help limit the introduction of seed-borne diseases to your land.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- View "Guidelines for Seed-borne Disease in Pulse Crops" at http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/docs/production/Seed_borne_pulse_crops.asp; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

ESTABLISHING NATIVE GRASSES

by Andre Bonneau P.Ag,
Forage Conversion Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

Forage producers often avoid seeding native grasses for pastures because of the fear of establishment failure. However, there are a few things you can do to help ensure good establishment and a productive forage stand.

For the most part, establishing native grasses isn't any more difficult than tame grasses. Problems arise when the species selected is not suited to the environment. Native species tend to have a narrower range of suitable growing conditions, whereas many tame forage species have been selected to establish quickly under a wider range of environmental conditions. It is important for the manager to select a native forage species which suits the soil, climate and growing conditions.

Because seed dormancy can be greater in native grasses, seeding rates often need extra attention. If available, ask for a copy of the seed analysis to find germination rates and base the seeding rate on Pure Live Seed (PLS). If the analysis isn't available, consider having a test done at an accredited lab.

The same rules apply to seeding native forages as they do to seeding tame forages. Place the seed at ¼ to ½ inch (6 to 12 mm) below the soil surface into a firm weed-free seedbed. If the seed is chaffy and flows poorly, mix the seed with enough fertilizer or cracked grain to help with flow. If you use fertilizer to help with flow, limit the fertilizer in the seed row to 15 lb./ac. (16.5 kg/ha) of actual phosphorus. Nitrogen may not be necessary. Mix a limited amount of seed until the proper seeding rate calibration is confirmed. A cover crop is not recommended.

Careful planning will be rewarded with a healthy native grass stand.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca, click on Production, then Seeding, then Seeding: Forage Establishment.

GOT A QUESTION? WE'VE GOT THE ANSWER.

Did you know the Agriculture Knowledge Centre is only a phone call or e-mail away?

If you are looking for information on agriculture related topics, such as crops, livestock, nutrient management and the economic implications of farm management decisions, then the Agriculture Knowledge Centre is your starting point.

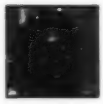
A toll free line, accessible from anywhere in Saskatchewan, puts you in touch with experienced and knowledgeable specialists, who draw on expertise from around the province and beyond. We have five Resource Agents and eight Professional Agrologists to help you. We are also connected to a network of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food specialists, resources and programs. Our specialists keep up to date on the latest information, and can regularly be seen at ag-related events such as field days, workshops and producer meetings and conferences.

Give us a call today, or send us an e-mail. We are more than happy to help you find the solutions you need for all aspects of your agricultural operation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre by calling toll free 1-866-457-2377, or by e-mailing us at aginfo@agr.gov.sk.ca.
- Visit us on-line at www.agr.gov.sk.ca. We are open Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During off hours, you are welcome to leave a telephone message and we will get back to you the next work day.

Seeding time:
Soil temperature and early seeding



by Patrick Mooleki
Crop Development Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

As farm size increases, earlier seeding is a must, given that the window for seeding is only a few weeks. Although the optimum soil temperature for germination and seedling establishment for most spring seeded crops is 10°C or greater, most crops will germinate at cooler temperatures. However, if soil temperatures remain low, seedling development may be impaired, resulting in poor seedling vigour and increased susceptibility to disease infection.

Hence, it is recommended that seeding should commence as soon as average soil temperatures at seeding depth reach 5 °C. Early seeding also improves utilization of spring moisture.

Lentil, pea and canola have performed well from very early seeding and should be seeded as early as possible. Kabuli chickpea and dry beans should be planted when average soil temperature reaches 10°C. Chickpeas require warmer seedbeds of about 7°C for desi and 10°C for kabuli types for optimum stand establishment.

Seed treatment provides extra protection to the seed and seedlings in early seeding. Treating canola seed is a standard practice, but for pulses, cereals and flax, seed treatment for early seeding in fields that are likely to have cool seedbeds and delayed emergence may be necessary. Regardless, if the seed is infected with seed-borne diseases, it should be treated with an appropriate fungicide.

Sound seed with high germination and no disease is always the right choice, but is especially important for early seeding. Certified seed offers producers these characteristics as well as purity of variety.

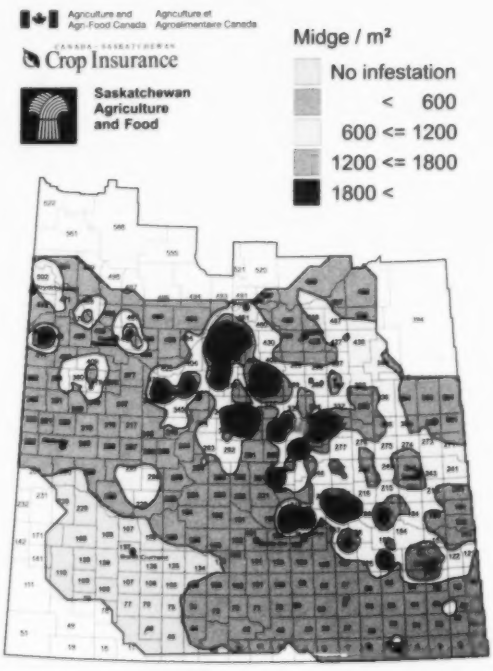
Early seeding comes with increased risk of frost damage in the spring. However, late frost cannot be predicted and hence, does not constitute a factor in deciding when to seed. Fortunately, most crops have the ability to survive frost damage. Pulse crops have scale nodes below ground so that, if a killing frost occurs, the plants can re-grow from the scale nodes. Canola is sensitive to frost once the cotyledons have emerged. However, canola seedlings will harden-off when there are warm days and cool nights, giving the canola seedlings endurance to frost. Cereals have protection from early frost because the growing point of the seedling is below ground.

The bottom line is, the earlier you seed, the better the chance of achieving higher seed yields. Monitor the temperature of the soil to ensure that you do not miss the earliest possible time for seeding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-877-363-0536; or
- See Frequently Asked Questions about Soil Temperatures on SAF's website under Production and Seeding at http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/docs/production/saffaqs_soil_temp_seeding.asp

WHEAT MIDGE FORECAST MAP FOR 2007



Monitoring for wheat midge infestations will be important for Saskatchewan producers, when wheat is in a susceptible stage during the 2007 growing season. The Saskatchewan Wheat Midge Forecast Map for 2007 indicates that the populations of this major insect pest have increased in the province. Areas identified with high risk exist throughout the moist dark brown and black soil zones.

Most of the highest risk areas are in a broad zone from the Alberta – Saskatchewan border in the northwest to the southeast. However, producers should be aware that, where the midge has become established previously in an area, it is unlikely to completely disappear. Even areas of infestation indicated on the forecast map of more than 600 wheat midge per square metre may result in significant damage and yield loss. Wheat midge larvae feeding on kernels can affect final yield, grade and grain quality. Severely damaged kernels that are lost during threshing will lower yield, whereas moderately-damaged kernels that are harvested will reduce grade.

In all areas where wheat midge is present, growers are urged to monitor wheat fields during the susceptible period (from when the wheat head becomes visible as the boot splits until mid-flowering (anthesis)). Regular field scouting on multiple nights in succession is important in understanding the population changes in a particular field. Temperature and wind play critical roles in egg-laying of the adult female midge. The activity of the wheat midge females in the crop canopy near the wheat heads will be reduced, if temperatures are below 15° C and wind is high, affecting the flight of this small fragile fly.

Wheat plants develop a natural resistance to midge damage through the build-up of a phenolic acid. Sufficient levels in the plant are reached during anthesis. By the time anthers have appeared on about 50% of the wheat heads, the majority of the crop is past the susceptible stage. In addition, late insecticide application may adversely affect the parasitic beneficial control agents.

The distribution of wheat midge as illustrated in the 2007 Forecast Map is based on cocoons present in soil samples, collected in a 2006 fall survey. Although a number of factors influence over-wintering survival of the midge, the survey and map provide a general picture of existing densities and the potential for infestation in 2007. Climatic conditions – mainly temperature and moisture – will ultimately determine the extent and timing of midge emergence during the growing season.

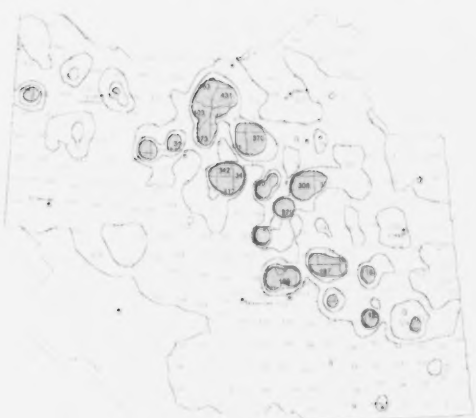
FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (1-866-457-2377) during the 2007 growing season.

Seeding time

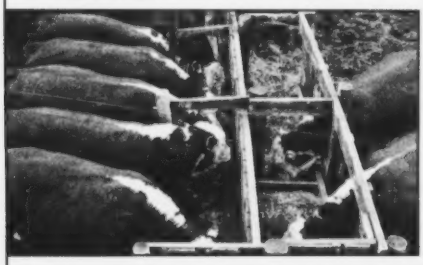
Soil temperature and early seeding

WHEAT MIDGE FORECAST MAP FOR 2007



Excess protein in ruminant diets

by Murray Feist
Ruminant Nutritionist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre



In beef cattle rations, protein is an essential nutrient that promotes growth, milk production and cellular functions. A cow's dietary protein can come from the feed or can be manufactured by rumen bacteria. A dry, mature cow in the middle third of pregnancy requires seven to nine per cent crude protein in its diet, and a lactating cow nursing her calf requires nine to 14 per cent crude protein. These levels can be adequately met by forages, spring pasture, or a combination of forages and grains in the ration. "Traditional" feedstuffs, such as hay and barley, have moderate levels of protein. Alfalfa hay can provide 14 to 18 per cent crude protein, and barley grain can provide 12 per cent. A soluble protein source, such as urea, contains approximately 287 per cent crude protein due to its high nitrogen content!

The ethanol and canola crushing industries create byproducts containing high levels of protein. Dry distiller grains can provide 35 per cent crude protein, and canola meal can contain 38 per cent crude protein. Due to their high protein contents, dry distiller grains and canola meal do not have to be added to the ration in large amounts – typical levels in a beef ration would approach one-quarter to one-third of the daily diet.

Feed protein can be classified as either soluble (non-protein nitrogen) or true protein, made up of complex amino acids. Standard feed-grade sources of soluble non-protein nitrogen include urea, monoammonium phosphate, ammonium sulphate and ammonium chloride. Soluble protein is completely available and is quickly turned into ammonia by rumen microbes. The ammonia is carried in the blood to the liver for detoxification and is then excreted.

Too much soluble protein can be detrimental to conception rates. Excess soluble protein in the diet overloads the liver detoxification system and creates a highly toxic environment in the uterus, impairing implantation of the embryo and resulting in low conception rates. Soluble protein should not exceed 30 per cent of the crude protein in the diet. Soluble protein like urea should not be fed to calves under 400 pounds, as their digestive systems cannot effectively digest urea.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

KEEPING CALVES HEALTHY

by Christy Winquist
Beef Forage Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

The most important thing you can do to keep your calves healthy is to ensure that they start life with the best possible immunity. You can maximize this by understanding the different types of immunity, and how they are affected by management practices. There are two types of immunity: passive and active. In both cases, antibodies (immunoglobulins) recognize and neutralize invading bacteria or viruses, providing protection from disease.

Passive immunity occurs when antibodies are produced by one animal and transferred to a susceptible animal to provide immediate protection. This occurs when a calf receives colostrum (first milk) from the cow. Colostrum is rich in antibodies to those diseases to which the cow has been exposed. The calf's immune system is not fully developed at birth, and it must rely on the antibodies in the colostrum for protection against disease for the first few months of its life. The calf can best absorb the antibodies within the first six hours after birth, and must nurse then, and again within 12 hours. After this time, the antibodies are digested rather than absorbed. A calf requires at least five per cent of its body weight in colostrum per feeding. This is approximately two quarts for an 80-pound calf. Frozen colostrum can be used as long as it has not been thawed and refrozen. Frozen colostrum must be thawed slowly--by warming in a hot water bath or on a medium setting in the microwave--so the antibodies are not damaged by overheating.

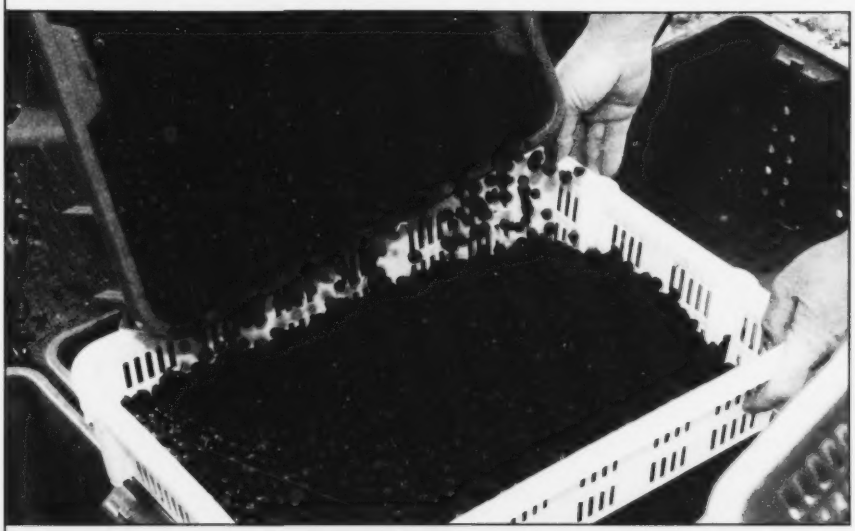
Active immunity is when an animal's body produces antibodies and resistance to a foreign 'antigen' such as a virus. This occurs when animals recover from disease or when they are vaccinated. Vaccines can be either killed or modified live strains of virus or bacteria. A killed vaccine is safe, but may not induce high or prolonged immunity. A modified live vaccine contains infectious agents that are able to multiply in the animal but will not produce disease. Modified live vaccines generally produce a higher level of immunity than killed vaccines, but they have a higher risk of inducing abortions if given to pregnant or highly stressed animals.

Vaccines are often ineffective when given to young calves. Their immature immune system may not be able to respond to the vaccine. As well, the antibodies they acquired from colostrum may destroy the antigen in the vaccine. Your vaccination program should be based on your veterinarian's recommendations related to which diseases exist within your area and to your herd history. Typically, in Saskatchewan, calves are vaccinated for clostridial diseases, which include blackleg and tetanus, as well as IBR, BVD and parainfluenza 3. Individual herd circumstances, including disease history, management, housing, feeding practices and breeding, should be taken into consideration when developing a program. No vaccination program will fit every operation, so it is important that you talk to your veterinarian about what will work for your herd.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your local veterinarian or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Innovator's vision could take Saskatoons to the next level



A Saskatchewan innovator in the saskatoon sector has come up with another bright idea that could take her industry to the next level.

Sandy Purdy, founder of Prairie Berries Inc. near Keeler, developed dry-packed saskatoons after seeing the successes other dried berries like cranberries and blueberries.

> "I have a passion for agriculture and I have a passion for saskatoons, so I see my role as continuing to push the envelope and see what else we can do with these products."
>
> Sandy Purdy, founder of Prairie Berries

"Look at cranberries," she says. "Five years ago, outside of being in a bag or can at Thanksgiving, you never saw them in any other form. Now you see them in muffins and bagels and granola bars, or dried so that consumers can eat them as a snack food."

Purdy received funding from the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program to cover 50 per cent of the cost in developing her concept into a project for experimentation. Without this kind of assistance, she says, a small businesses like hers wouldn't be able to bring its innovative ideas into reality.

Purdy has been working with the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre in Saskatoon, first to perfect a drying process for saskatoons, and then to test things like shelf life, packaging options, consumer feedback and marketplace stability.

If the product development process and marketability trials are successful, Purdy sees incredible potential for expansion in the province's saskatoon industry. Should the product take off in the same way as other dried berries, not only would increased demand improve returns for existing berry producers, but it would also require more saskatoons to be grown overall. At the same time, commercial production facilities would likely be required, delivering a boost to value-added processing in the province.

Purdy says her continual efforts to develop new saskatoon markets are a labour of love. "I have a passion for agriculture and I have a passion for saskatoons, so I see my role as continuing to push the envelope and see what else we can do with these products."

"It's a native fruit to the province. My goodness, we should be able to do something with it!"

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Sandy Purdy by telephone at 306-788-2018 or by e-mail at prairieberries@sasktel.net, or
- Contact the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development at 1-800-641-8256.

AGROFORESTRY MANAGEMENT COURSE NOW AVAILABLE

Interest in agroforestry practices continues to grow across Saskatchewan, resulting in a need for training. The first ever management course for agroforestry on the prairies was designed by a committee from the Saskatchewan Forest Centre, the University of Saskatchewan and the Agri-Business Development Branch of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food. The course will be offered this coming March.

The two-day course is designed to meet the needs of landowners or other individuals interested in learning the basics about agroforestry practices on the prairies. The course content is divided into four modules, consisting of a half day each. Delivery options can be very flexible to meet the needs of any group. The modules include:

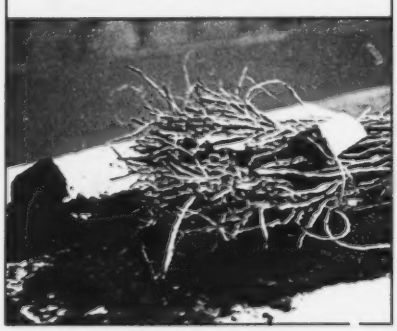
- Industry and marketing analysis
- Production and management
- Processing and value-added strategies
- Environmental issues and benefits

Courses currently scheduled and contact numbers for registration are:

- **Yorkton** — **March 7 - 8**
  Parkland Regional College — 783-6566
- **North Battleford** — **March 12 - 13**
  Northwest Regional College — 937-5100
- **Prince Albert** — **March 27 - 28**
  Saskatchewan Forest Centre — 765-2840
- **Whitewood** — **April 17 - 18**
  South East Regional College — 735-2290

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Larry White at the Saskatchewan Forest Centre, 1-306-765-2860, or e-mail the Forest Centre at info@saskforestcentre.ca. You can also visit the website at www.saskforestcentre.ca



Growing the Saskatchewan Sunflower Industry

by Elaine Moats, PAg.
SAF Crop Development Specialist, Weyburn

While sunflowers have consistently returned more dollars per acre than other crops, their profitability comes with marketing frustrations. According to Saskatchewan Sunflower Committee chairperson Jim Thorson, the main reason there aren't more sunflower acres in Saskatchewan is the lack of locally available markets.

"Currently, most of Saskatchewan's sunflower crop is the oilseed type," Thorson said. "It is sold primarily into the birdseed market and sold in Saskatchewan or shipped to Manitoba, the United States and Alberta. Smaller amounts are used for dairy and beef cattle feed and dehulled seeds are used for baking."

Most sunflower crushers are located in the United States, where mid-oleic (NuSun) varieties are crushed for healthy cooking oil. While NuSun varieties have been tested in the Saskatchewan Variety Trials, none show consistent performance under Saskatchewan growing conditions.

The Saskatchewan Sunflower Committee is made up of growers and industry representatives who believe that there is a much larger role for the crop in Saskatchewan.

The group sees the need to grow the sunflower industry beyond existing markets into areas such as burnable energy sources, biochemical components that could be used by the petro-chemical industry to replace existing products, oil and meal by-products, and plastic replacements.

Sunflower feeding trials with beef cattle show increased rates of gain and feed efficiency along with increased levels of conjugated linoleic acid (CLA), a well known anti-carcinogen, in the meat. This could be an advantage for consumers as well as producers of natural beef, who could market their product based on CLA's health benefits.

"Adding sunflowers to dairy cow rations also increases the CLA levels in the milk," Thorson said. "Dairy producers living close to sunflower growers have been adding whole sunflowers to their dairy cow rations for years for feed efficiency reasons."

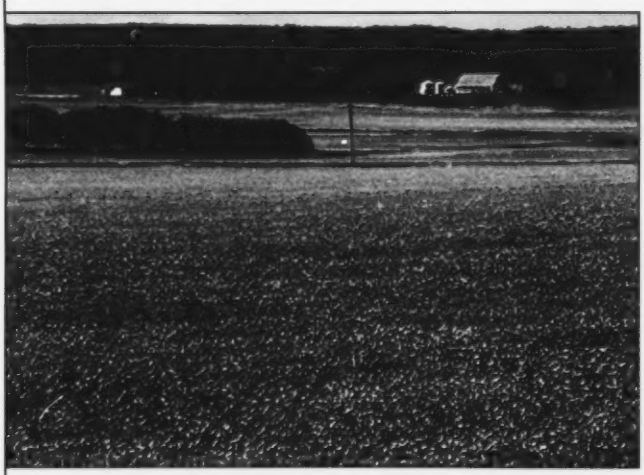
FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Saskatchewan Sunflower Committee chairperson Jim Thorson at (306) 488-4814; or
- Call SAF Crop Development Specialist Elaine Moats at (306) 848-2856.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sunflower hulls produce more burnable energy per pound than wheat.
- Saskatchewan growers seeded an estimated 35,000 acres of sunflowers in 2006.
- The Saskatchewan Sunflower Committee was formed in 1983 to test varieties that may be suitable to growing conditions in the province.

FLAX STRAW AND FIBRE: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SASKATCHEWAN



While only about 10 per cent of the flax straw in Saskatchewan is currently collected and processed, developing commercial applications for this substance is a hot topic for several Saskatchewan organizations.

Producer group SaskFlax has supported flax straw utilization research for a number of years. Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF) has funded several flax-straw and fibre-related Agriculture Development Fund projects and a Strategic Research Chair in Agricultural Materials Utilization & Bioprocess Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. The university group has successfully used flax straw in a number of products on a lab scale, including shingles, construction boards and bricks, and molded plastic products.

Flax-straw research is also ongoing at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI), Crop Fibres Canada, Biolin Research Inc. and Biofibre Industries in Canora, SK. Crop Fibers Canada and Biolin Research Inc. have shown that flax fibre and straw can have many uses, from fabrics to gardening mulch to animal bedding. A private Saskatchewan company is selling treated flax fibre and shive, which are fragments of the flax husk, to an American company which makes fibre-reinforced decking materials. Biolin Research Inc., PAMI and AAFC are investigating technology to improve the quality of the flax straw while continuing to harvest the seed. Trials have been conducted using existing equipment, including stripper headers and rollers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call SAF Crop Development Specialist Shannon Chant at 306-964-1510; or
- University of Saskatchewan SAF Research Chair Satya Panigrahi at 306-966-5312; or
- Crop Fibers Canada and Biolin Research Inc. representative Alvin Ulrich at 306-668-0130.

Enhancing Canada's feed ban

On June 26, 2006, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced enhancements to Canada's feed ban in an attempt to strengthen Canada's safeguards against the spread of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), and to speed eradication. The new regulations require all specified risk material (SRM) tissues to be removed and excluded from use in all animal feed, pet food and fertilizer beginning on July 12, 2007.

SRM is defined as the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia (nerves attached to the brain), eyes, tonsils, spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia (nerves attached to the spinal cord) of cattle aged 30 months or older, and the distal ileum (portion of the small intestine) of cattle of all ages. The intent of the new federal regulations is to have regulatory control over SRM, including carcasses, or deadstock, from which SRM has not been removed, to prevent these potentially infectious materials from entering the feed chain or environment.

To comply with the new regulations, all abattoirs, processors and other industry stakeholders that slaughter or handle beef or deadstock must develop and implement an SRM disposal plan. All plans will be subject to CFIA approval, whereupon a permit will be issued. Abattoirs, for example, will require a permit for removal, storage, transportation and disposal of SRM. Cattle producers will require a transportation permit, if they move deadstock containing SRM from their farm or a veterinary clinic.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, in conjunction with the CFIA, has recently wrapped up a series of meetings with abattoirs and other stakeholders, such as veterinarians and stockgrowers. The objective of the meetings was to clearly explain and discuss the regulation, and to explore potential solutions with stakeholders and/or groups.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has allocated $80 million to help the Canadian industry adjust to the new regulation. While program details have not been finalized, the funding will only be available for one-time infrastructure development projects specifically related to SRM handling and disposal. Operational costs will not be eligible. Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food will continue to work with stakeholders to help them identify options to meet the requirements of the CFIA regulation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Paul Johnson at 306-787-5882 or Garth Lipinski at 306-787-1207.

THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD: MARKET DEVELOPMENT, BRANDING AND LONG-TERM TRADE RELATIONS

Western Canadian wheat and barley is renowned for its quality and consistency in international grain markets. These characteristics are an essential part of the "Canadian brand" which distinguishes our grain from that of the U.S. and other major competitors.

What may be less well known by prairie farmers is that the establishment and maintenance of this brand stems, in large part, from the operation of the Canadian Wheat Board and its single desk marketing mandate.

Although the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) establishes grade standards and their underlying criteria, as well as provides the official "certificate final" which attests to the quality of the export cargo, it is the CWB who does the actual marketing or "offering" of wheat, durum and barley to customers. Working within these CGC grade standards, the CWB ensures what is offered is consist across customers and across shipments to the same customer. It is highly unlikely that multiple sellers of Canadian grain would be able to maintain consistency to the same degree.

Furthermore, even if some level of Canadian grain consistency were maintained in a multiple seller environment, only the single desk will consistently capture this value and pass it back to producers. In a multi-seller environment, companies would pass this back to customers (that is, accept lower prices) to make the sale, or if possible, keep the premium for themselves.

In addition, as the single desk seller, the CWB is best positioned to make the long-term and necessary investment in market analysis and market development. This includes multi-stage and multi-year activities which go well beyond establishing the quantity and quality of the crop to be sold and that of any carryover inventory. Also required are long-term, thorough activities in gathering market intelligence, monitoring Canadian and world crop conditions, funding and/or performing end-use research on existing and future varieties and classes, and utilizing this information in international market development and ongoing market maintenance.

Although companies operating in a multi-seller environment would perform some of these activities, they would only do so to the extent that they alone could profit from them. Companies would limit or avoid making expenditures on market development or product end-use applications that opened up a new market if it could soon be lost to a competitor who didn't make the expenditure and could offer a slightly lower price.

The CWB has had an office in Tokyo since 1961 and has been selling wheat to China since 1960. These are examples of a long-term commitment and investment in markets that are made possible and produce value to prairie farmers because of the single desk.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Canadian Wheat Board on the website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca and click on Management, CWB Information for Producers.

RESEARCH

E. coli vaccine important development for beef industry

A ground-breaking vaccine for cattle, brought to commercial viability by the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) at the University of Saskatchewan, is a major addition to the Canadian beef industry's quality and safety arsenal.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has approved the distribution of the vaccine to Canadian veterinarians. Based on a discovery by University of British Columbia researcher Brett Finlay, the science behind the vaccine was refined by a VIDO research team headed up by Associate Director of Research Andrew Potter.

The new vaccine greatly reduces the amount of *E. coli* O157:H7 bacteria—the strain that is most dangerous to humans—shed by cattle into their environment. The vaccine works by stopping the attachment of the E. coli bacteria to the intestinal surface in cattle.

According to VIDO director and CEO Lorne Babiuk, this makes Canada the first country in the world to access a vaccine for the *E. coli* O157:H7 strain. This is also the first time animals will be vaccinated to protect human health.

> "Imagination is great when combined with scientific ability."
>
> Lorne Babiuk, CEO of VIDO

The new vaccine will be commercially distributed through Bioniche Life Sciences Inc., an Ontario-based company. Babiuk says some of it will be marketed within six months, and it is expected to be widely available to veterinarians within 18 months.

Babiuk notes that "urbanization is putting increasing pressure on the environment for cattle producers, and if we can reduce the threat of contamination, this will support the safety of our food supply." He expects that the *E. coli* vaccine will likely not be widely used by individual producers for their herds; however, he can see a day when it is used in feedlots. The success of this development is encouraging VIDO to research vaccines for other closely related bacteria that produce similar toxins, include Salmonella and other E. coli strains.

The new vaccine's development was supported by numerous investors, including the Canada Beef Industry Development Fund and the Alberta Livestock Industry Development Fund.

The vaccine is another world first from VIDO.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at 306-966-1506.

MANAGEMENT

INSURANCE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL ACRES

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance always strives to identify opportunities for new, innovative insurance products and services to meet the needs of Saskatchewan's diverse agriculture industry.

Under the multi-peril, forage and organic insurance programs, Crop Insurance provides coverage on most crops grown throughout the province. Starting with insurance on wheat, durum, barley and oats only, the corporation has continued to add to the list of insurable crops as production data is collected, largely through the Saskatchewan Management Plus program. It is this production data upon which new crop coverage is based, with recent additions including timothy hay and hard white spring wheat.

If the crop you produce is not among Crop Insurance's traditional insurable crops, there are still coverage options available to you.

Diversification Option
For crops like red clover, borage, rye grass, hemp and millet, there is the Diversification Option. Designed to insure crops and varieties not insurable under the multi-peril program, producers are required to insure their grain acres to qualify for coverage. Coverage levels, premiums and any claims paid on the crop or variety grown under the Diversification Option are equal to the average coverage, premium and claims paid for your acres under the grains program.

Annual Crop Weather Based Insurance Program
For acres that do not qualify for diversification coverage, the Annual Crop Weather Based Insurance Program's stand alone option can protect your acres against drought and early fall frost. This is an area-based program: claims are calculated strictly on the weather data collected at the designated, customer-selected weather stations. This is a simple program, requiring little paperwork on the part of the producer and no inspections.

It is important that you discuss the program features and options with your customer service office. Weather based programs are not individual production programs. If you are looking for this type of insurance, ask about Crop Insurance's multi-peril program.

Forage Diversification Option
The Forage Diversification Option is available for feed crops not insurable under the multi-peril Forage Insurance program. Barley acres are used as a proxy for your coverage and claims. Claims do not have to be filed, but are automatically calculated based on the coverage and annual production insured barley acres in your risk zone.

Complete information on the Diversification and Annual Crop Weather Based Insurance Programs can be found in your upcoming 2007 Reference Guide. All forage coverage information, including the Forage Diversification Option, will be in the 2007 Forage Guide.

Both brochures will be available to Crop Insurance customers in their endorsement packages but to all producers at www.saskcropinsurance.com. Contact Crop Insurance today at 1-888-935-0000 to discuss the coverage options available on your non-traditional acres.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Call Crop Insurance at 1-888-935-0000; or
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

Land for Sale by Tender or Permit

COMPLETED TENDERS AND FIVE PERCENT DEPOSIT MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL OFFICE of SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, AS LISTED BELOW, BY 12 NOON MARCH 16, 2007.

Additional tender forms and eligibility criteria can be obtained from Regional Offices of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food (SAF), Rural Municipality offices, or online at www.agr.gov sk.ca.

Conditions of Tender

1. Tenders must clearly indicate the land being bid on and the amount being bid. Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and mailed or delivered to the appropriate regional office as shown below. The envelope is to be clearly marked "Land Tender." Tender forms are available for this purpose.

2. Bidders must be at least 18 years of age.

3. Bidders must not control (own, lease or rent) land with a total taxable assessment of more than $320,000, unless otherwise specified.

4. All bidders must complete a declaration detailing their eligibility.

5. A certified cheque, money order or bank draft payable to SAF for five per cent of the total tender must accompany the tender. Tenders submitted without certified funds will not be considered.

6. In addition to the highest bid for any individual parcel, SAF will consider bids that provide the highest aggregate price for any combination of parcels.

7. SAF reserves the right to reject any bid. Where the highest bid is rejected, the bidder may be provided with an opportunity to meet the listed estimated market value.

8. An agreement for sale and transfer will be prepared in the name of the successful bidder. The spouse of the successful bidder will be added to the agreement for sale and transfer upon receipt of a written request.

9. The successful bidder has 30 days, from the effective date of the agreement for sale, to provide the balance in cash to complete the purchase. The deposit will be forfeited where the successful bidder does not finalize an agreement for sale.

10. All fees to register title with Infomation Services Corporation are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the price bid.

11. All lands together with any fixtures and improvements are sold "as is." The bidder is solely responsible to determine the value and condition of land being sold, value and condition of improvements, land quality, land use, environmental condition and any other information pertaining to tendered land.

12. SAF may withhold or withdraw any land from sale at any time prior to the delivery of a signed agreement for sale.

13. Where the land is not sold, it may be listed on the department's catalogue sale until 5 p.m. April 16, 2007. Sales from the catalogue are on a "first-come, first-served basis" at the minimum value announced at the tender opening.

14. Where land is not sold by 5 p.m. on April 16, 2007, a short-term permit on the land may be offered to the highest bidder at Crown rental, plus GST and a $40 permit fee. If the permit is refused, SAF may offer it to other bidders on a declining bid basis.

For Land In:

SOUTH REGION

RMs 103 and 104:
MAIL OR DELIVER TENDERS TO:
SWIFT CURRENT REGIONAL OFFICE
BOX 5000
350 CHEADLE ST. W.
SWIFT CURRENT SK S9H 4G3

RMs 91, 93 and 96:
MAIL OR DELIVER TENDERS TO:
WEYBURN REGIONAL OFFICE
BOX 2003, 110 SOURIS AVE.
CITY CENTRE MALL
WEYBURN SK S4H 2Z9

NORTH EAST REGION

RMs 184, 214, 216, 218, 220, 221, 245, 246, 273, 275, 276, 277, 279, 301, 335, 338, 340, 395, 402, 426, 456, 463, 488, 493 and 520:
MAIL OR DELIVER TENDERS TO:
TISDALE REGIONAL OFFICE
BOX 1480
1105 - 99TH ST.
TISDALE SK S0E 1T0

NORTH WEST REGION

RMs 257, 261, 287, 292, 316, 317, 318, 380, 382, 406, 494 and 588:
NORTH BATTLEFORD REGIONAL OFFICE
1192 - 102ND ST.
NORTH BATTLEFORD SK S9A 1E9

Public opening of the tender bids will be held at 1:30 p.m., March 16, 2007, at the above locations.

VALERIE TOWNSEND-FRASER
(306) 848-2378

R.M.	Land Description	Acres	Codes	Est Mkt
91	NE-12-11-30-1	160	C	$43,030
91	SW-12-11-30-1	160	C,CE	$35,056
91	NE-13-11-30-1	160	C	$43,730
91	SE-13-11-30-1	160	C	$41,810
91	SW-13-11-30-1	157	C,CE	$41,800
93	NW-15-12-02-2	160	C	$32,840
93	SE-15-12-02-2	160	C	$38,780
96	*[SE-31-12-11-2 SW-31-12-11-2]	320	C,CE	$72,320

WALLY HOEHN
(306) 363-6200

R.M.	Land Description	Acres	Codes	Est Mkt
184	SE-17-20-04-2	156	C,G	$31,300
184	NE-11-21-04-2	143	C,G,CE	$22,350
184	NW-31-20-06-2	159	C,CE	$38,950

R.M.	Land Description	Acres	Codes	Est Mkt
214	*[NW-1-22-05-2 SW-1-22-05-2]	313	C,CE	$70,550
216	NW-31-24-10-2	140	C,CE	$28,900
	Land was sprayed once with glyphosate.			
216	SW-31-24-10-2	160	C,CE	$33,650
	Land was sprayed once with glyphosate.			
218	NE-24-24-18-2	159	C,CE	$36,600
220	SE-13-23-22-2	160	C	$32,950
220	NE-14-23-22-2	153	C	$36,800
220	NW-14-23-22-2	160	C	$31,000
221	SW-5-23-24-2	159	C,CE	$29,550
221	SE-4-24-24-2	159	C	$41,350
245	SE-7-26-07-2	160	H,CE	$23,450
	Land is seeded to alfalfa. Stand is four years old.			
246	NE-26-27-12-2	161	C	$42,450
276	NE-22-28-12-2	160	C	$49,750
	Land was summerfallowed in 2006.			
276	NE-34-29-12-2	160	C,CE	$36,450
276	NW-35-29-12-2	160	C	$48,800
277	NW-28-29-13-2	160	C,CE	$32,400
	Land was summerfallowed in 2006.			
277	NE-21-30-14-2	160	C,CE	$32,700
	Land was summerfallowed in 2006.			
279	NW-10-26-20-2	157	C	$40,100
279	SW-10-26-20-2	159	C	$43,050
279	SE-16-26-20-2	159	C	$39,750
338	SE-27-35-18-2	161	C	$43,150
	Land was worked twice with a tandem disk.			
340	SE-2-34-24-2	158	C,G,H,CE	$27,450
	Land was rested in 2006.			

BRENT MCINNIS
(306) 778-8295

103	SW-33-12-02-3	160	C,CE	$25,000
104	*[NE-6-10-05-3 SE-6-10-05-3]	319	C	$76,500
	Durum and chickpea stubble			

DEAN CORTUS
(306) 878-8880

273	SW-1-28-02-2	156	C,CE	$32,500
	86 acres C. Native grassland areas under CE.			
273	NW-33-28-02-2	155	H,G,F,CE	$29,400
	CE does not affect tame forage area.			
275	SW-13-28-08-2	148	C,H	$44,700
	55 acres C. 80 acres H. Yardsite not included.			
275	NE-15-28-08-2	160	H	$39,700
301	NE-30-33-30-1	159	H,CE,T	$48,200
	10 acres H. CE is for aspen areas only.			
335	SE-5-34-08-2	158	H,CE	$42,600
	97 acres H.			
	CE does not affect developed tame forage area.			
395	SW-3-42-08-2	158	C	$63,400
	143 acres C. Chemfallow in 2006.			
426	SE-36-41-10-2	162	C,H,CE,T	$35,600
	105 acres C. 20 acres H.			
426	SW-12-45-10-2	148	C,H	$53,500
	66 acres H. 41 acres C.			
426	*[NE-35-41-10-2 NW-35-41-10-2]	320	C,H,CE,T	$36,000
	210 acres C.			
	CE is for undeveloped forested areas.			

TIM FEIST
(306) 862-1789

402	NW-1-41-01-3	153	C	$38,540
456	NE-19-48-10-2	160	C	$83,780.
456	SW-22-48-10-2	160	C	$61,600
463	SE-9-44-02-3	134	C	$53,310
488	SW-3-53-16-2	160	C	$37,350
488	NE-12-54-16-2	158	C	$56,380
493	SE-8-52-02-3	161	C	$60,900
493	NE-17-52-02-3	162	C	$27,900
	Conservation easement on undeveloped area in NE corner and across south end.			
520	SW-7-53-23-2	160	C	$53,740

GALEN LOY
(306) 446-7473

292	SE-29-30-28-3	156	C,CE	$45,000
292	NW-29-30-28-3	150	C,H	$55,000
	Two oil leases. $3,219 annual surface rental.			
292	SW-29-30-28-3	159	C,CE,H	$42 500
292	NE-11-30-29-3	160	C,CE	45,400
	One oil lease. $1,211 annual surface rental.			
292	SE-11-30-29-3	160	C,CE	$44,200
	Mustard stubble.			
292	*[NE-31-30-28-3 SE-31-30-28-3]	118	C	$38,000
	One oil lease. $2,008 annual surface rental.			
	Land is N and E of old railway track bed.			
318	SW-29-32-18-3	156	C,G,F,CE	$48,500
	One oil lease. $2,109 annual surface rental.			
380	SE-5-38-22-3	80	C,CE	$13,000
	8 acres cultivated.			

CODES:

A - Access Limitation, B - Buildings, C - Cultivation, CE - Conservation Easement, F - Fencing, G - Grazing, GS - Grain Storage, H - Hay, I - Irrigation, LA - Living Accomodation, LF - Livestock Facilities, LZ - Local Zoning, P - Power, S - CP/Survey Correction, T - Timber Included In Valuation, W - Water, Y - Yardsite.
*** - Denotes "to be sold as a unit."**

R.M.	Land Description	Acres	Codes	Est Mkt
	TRACEY CHARABIN			
	(306) 446-7685			
261	NE-33-27-25-3	161	C	$38,600
	No improvements. Seeded to canary seed and brown mustard in 2006.			
261	NW-33-27-25-3	161	C	$37,700
	No improvements. Seeded to canary seed and brown mustard in 2006.			
287	SW-14-28-15-3	160	C,CE	$13,300
	Farm size restriction removed.			
	CE does not affect acres currently cultivated.			
316	*[NW-14-31-11-3 SW-14-31-11-3]	320	C,CE,H,W	$88,375
	Farm size restriction removed.			
	CE affects only native grass and reverted areas.			
317	NE-11-32-13-3	157	C	$37,600
	Sale excludes two-acre patented area in NE corner.			
318	SE-15-31-16-3	160	C,H	$64,900
318	SW-15-31-16-3	160	C,H	$40,600
382	NE-11-38-27-3	159	C,CE	$61,400
	CE on wetland complexes only.			
	Oil leases. $1683.54 annual rental.			
382	SE-14-38-27-3	159	C,CE,F	$85,800
	CE on wetland complexes only.			
	Oil leases. $4129.55 annual rental.			
382	SW-14-38-27-3	159	C,CE,F,W	$45,930
	CE on wetland complexes only.			

R.M.	Land Description	Acres	Codes	Est Mkt
494	SE-2-52-06-3	151	H,CE	$14,000
	Highway and railbed intersect land.			
	Slough hay prone to flooding.			
494	SW-29-52-06-3	40	H,CE	$2,400
	Old forage stand.			
	Fractional portion located south and west of old road bed.			
494	SW-6-52-06-3	160	H,C,CE	$14,900
	Slough hay prone to flooding.			
	Public trail.			
	TIM SCHULTZ			
	(306) 446-7466			
257	SW-24-27-15-3	156	C,CE	$32,200
	142 acres cultivated. Prone to flooding.			
406	NE-20-42-11-3	160	H,CE	$41,200
	143 acres tame hay.			
	Farm-size restriction not applicable.			
406	SW-28-42-11-3	160	H,CE	$30,600
	145 acres old tame hay.			
	Farm-size restriction not applicable.			
	Fence not included.			
588	SE-11-62-19-3	159	C,H,G,CE, T,O	$33,600
	36 acres cultivation, prone to flooding.			
	37 acres tame hay.			
	Non-mutual easement.			

TENDER TO PURCHASE PROVINCIAL LAND

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

Name in full (no initials)_____

_____

(Complete mailing address including postal code) (Phone)

Tender

I hereby submit a tender on the following land:

RM #	Tender Quarter Section or Advertised Unit	Tender
_____	_____	$ _____
_____	_____	$ _____
_____	_____	$ _____
_____	_____	$ _____

Deposit

Enclosed is a certified cheque, money order or bank draft for $_____ representing a deposit of five per cent (5%) of my total tender.

My G.S.T. Registration Number is _____

(**Individuals who do not have** a G.S.T. Registration Number will be required to pay **G.S.T.** on the purchase)

I hereby submit the above tender to purchase provincial land, **subject to the conditions listed in the tender ad, which I have read and understood.**

_____ _____

(Date) (Signature)

Eligibility Declaration

I, _____ of _____ Do hereby declare I am at least 18 years of age; I spend or will spend a majority of my time on farming operations; that I derive or will derive a majority of my income from farming operations; and that the accrued taxable assessment of the land that I own, lease or rent is $ _____ . If this total taxable assessment is greater than $320,000, I understand that I am not eligible to bid on lands, which are listed in the tender ad. I understand this declaration is given for the purpose of obtaining a disposition of Provincial lands and I accept that any disposition obtained pursuant to this declaration may be cancelled if I have secured the same by misrepresentation or non disclosure of any material fact.

_____ _____

(Date) (Signature)

Call on the Farm Stress Line

S

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PROVINCE PROCLAIMS 2007 AGRICULTURAL SAFETY WEEK

Agricultural Safety Week emphasizes that all family-run Saskatchewan farm families need to put safety first at all times," Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman said.

The Saskatchewan Safety Council (SSC) reports there are about 12 to 15 fatal farm accidents in Saskatchewan each year.

The SSC recommends that farmers make safety a key component of their overall farm management plan and look for ways to reduce the chances of being injured," SSC Farm Safety Program Administrator Patrick Kurz said.

Agricultural Safety Week is a program of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and is supported by numerous agricultural organizations including the Saskatchewan Safety Council, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Wheat Growers, Farmers with Disabilities Program of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, the Saskatchewan Farm Safety Program of Saskatchewan Labour and the Farm Stress Line of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food.

Soy

Wheat

Milk

Soy, Wheat & Milk

Call on the Farm Stress Line

Saskatchewan farm families and rural communities have faced many challenges over the years.

The Farm Stress Line is here to assist producers. Counsellors on the Farm Stress Line are fully aware of how crisis can impact on our behaviour, our thinking and our emotions, and how it can affect family relationships. Each Farm Stress Line counsellor is familiar with such challenges and has had to make choices. It is this experience, coupled with training in counselling skills, that is the basis for the current farmer to farmer, rural person to rural person stress line and information service.

Farm Stress Line counsellors have farming experience. They work from the perspective that farm people want to solve their own problems. This perspective dominates the interaction between the caller and the counsellor. Sometimes, the people who call the Farm Stress Line feel that they don't have power over their own situation or circumstance. The role of the Farm Stress Line is to strive to empower people by providing current information and knowledge, which supports the decision making process.

By contacting the Farm Stress Line, farm families have been able to discuss their situation in the strictest of confidence. In receiving these calls, counsellors listen, but in such a way that tells the caller that he or she is understood. From there, the interaction extends to an exploration of options, followed by offering information and referrals to the agencies and the services that can provide one-on-one support and professional advice.

The Farm Stress Line has also produced an information kit called Farming and Ranching in Difficult Times, which includes information sheets on topics common to caller's concerns, including debt-resolution, bankruptcy, foreclosure and other stress and relationship related subjects.

Another essential component of the Farm Stress Line is an electronic database called the CONNECTIONS Services Directory. This directory can be accessed by calling Connections toll-free at 1-866-680-0006, or by using the Internet at www.agr.gov.sk.ca/connections. The information available includes federal and provincial government programs, and a wide range of community based services throughout Saskatchewan.

The Farm Stress Unit staff also serve as resources for workshops, delivering presentations on topics related to the Farm Stress Line service. Topics include Neighbours Helping Neighbours, Communication Skills, Stress Management, and Farm Transfer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Farm Stress Line toll-free at 1-800-667-4442; or
- Call Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's Inquiry Line and the CONNECTIONS Services Directory toll-free at 1-866-680-0006, or 1-306-787-5140; or
- Visit www.agr.gov.sk.ca or www.agr.gov.sk.ca/connections

PROVINCE PROCLAIMS 2007 AGRICULTURAL SAFETY WEEK

"Protect your moving parts!" is the theme of the 2007 Agricultural Safety Week in Saskatchewan, which has been proclaimed in conjunction with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week March 14-20.

This year's theme emphasizes the prevention of entanglements and the importance of guarding. Details can be found on the Canadian Federation of Agriculture website at www.cfa-fca.ca, under Programs and Projects.

"Agricultural Safety Week emphasizes that all members of Saskatchewan farm families need to put safety first at all times," Agriculture and Food Minister Mark Wartman said.

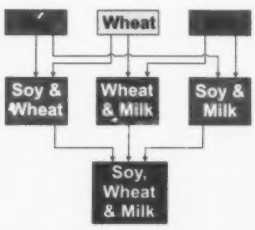
The Saskatchewan Safety Council (SSC) reports there are about 12 to 15 fatal farm accidents in Saskatchewan each year.

"The SSC recommends that farmers make safety a key component of their overall farm management plan and look for ways to reduce the chances of being injured," SSC Farm Safety Promotions Administrator Patrick Kurtz said.

Agricultural Safety Week is a program of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and is supported by numerous agricultural organizations including the Saskatchewan Safety Council, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, the Farmers with Disabilities Program of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, the Saskatchewan Farm Safety Program of Saskatchewan Labour, and the Farm Stress Line of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food is constantly updating the wealth of information it makes available to Saskatchewan residents. You can download the most current version of any document posted on our website. You can also call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 to request a hard copy of many items. Below is a list of the latest documents posted, as well as the most frequently visited pages, on SAF's website at: www.agr.gov.sk.ca.



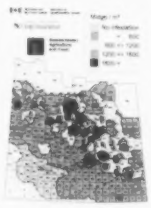
(Food Processing) Allergen Programs - What are allergens? How do I develop an allergen program? What is an allergen tree? Visit: Food Safety | Monitoring

(Food Processing) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) - Basic principles of operation which a food processor should follow to produce a consistent, quality food product. Visit: Food Safety | Inspection

Varieties of Grain Crops 2007 - Provides information on the relative yields for the different growing regions in the province, as well as production information on the crops, including a list of seed distributors. Visit: Production | Seeding

Land Rental Arrangements - Outlines the legal and tax considerations of leasing privately owned land, and provides management information and guidelines for the landlord and tenant when negotiating a rental agreement. Visit: Management | Business Arrangements

Grasshopper Forecast - The grasshopper forecast map indicates that the risk of economically significant grasshopper populations will be low for Saskatchewan in 2007. Visit: Production | Insects



Wheat Midge Forecast - The wheat midge forecast map indicates that the populations of this major insect pest of wheat have increased. Visit: Production | Insects

A Federal, Provincial and Territorial Initiative

The next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy

The Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture are in the process of establishing the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy. As part of this process, they have proposed a vision for the industry.

"An industry that is innovative in seizing evolving market demands for food and non-food products and services within an environment that fosters prosperity and opportunity for the entire value chain, creating benefits for all Canadians."

Increased Innovation
While the agriculture and agri-food sector has achieved significant productivity increases, so too has the world. The Canadian Industry can stay ahead of our competitors by:

- working together to optimize the use of Canada's scientific resources to ensure returns across the innovation value chain;
- having the tools to unleash the full potential of research and development;
- developing innovative new products and techniques from around the globe; and
- undertaking increased value-added activities on-farm and across Canada.

Meeting Evolving Market Demands
Consumers are demanding more of their food. While change is an inherent part of any business, successful operations are those that quickly adapt to new environments and even influence the direction of change. Meeting evolving consumer demands will mean:

- being nimble in responding to consumers' demands for specific quality attributes
- better communication along and among strong, coordinated value chains; and
- shaping consumer demands through innovative market development and education.

Producing a Wide Range of Food and Non-Food Products and Services
Developing non-food products, linking with other sectors in the bioeconomy, creating solutions to environmental issues and capitalizing on the service-based aspects of the farm entity will become critically important. Industry will benefit from:

- playing a leading role in the development of biofuels and bioproducts;
- capitalizing on both the food and non-food components of the sector; and
- creating a broader set of relations with other sectors, such as the chemical and pharmaceutical industry.

Fostering Prosperity and Opportunity
The success of the agriculture and agri-food industry is affected by education, regulation, infrastructure and other critical factors. To foster prosperity and opportunity, we must:

- equip our labour pool with the latest skills, technology and management techniques;
- create the infrastructure necessary for the efficient production and delivery; and
- develop and continually adapt a flexible and efficient regulatory system.

Creating Benefits for All Canadians
Canadians are increasingly concerned about the impact of animal and plant health on human health and the environment. Health issues are growing in importance and food has a central role to play in an overall health strategy. The industry can benefit all Canadians by:

- embracing environmentally-sustainable production;
- taking measures to mitigate and minimize the impact of plant and animal diseases;
- understanding the integral linkage between agriculture and food, especially as part of a healthy lifestyle; and
- continuing to provide a safe supply of food to Canadians.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Information on the Agriculture Policy Framework and the process to establish the next generation can be found at www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen.
- Canadians can participate in helping to develop the next generation by calling or writing the federal and Saskatchewan Ministers of Agriculture.

CANADIAN FARMERS PROACTIVE ON FRESH PRODUCE SAFETY

The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) has taken a proactive approach to food safety on the farm by developing a national on-farm food safety program for Canadian fresh fruit and vegetable farmers. This program is part of a national initiative, ongoing since the 1990s, involving producers and packers across Canada. The industry's leadership in developing the program shows that Canadian fruit and vegetable farmers are committed to meeting their customers' demands for safe, high quality produce.

"Canadian producers take food safety seriously," said Paul LeBlanc, chair of the CHC Food Safety Committee. "The fresh produce industry recognizes that in today's world farmers must use practices that safeguard our food. Producers continue to adapt their production practices in response to new scientific information. They are committed to providing Canadians with safe and nutritious produce."

The CHC on-farm food safety program is the result of years of work by industry representatives and technical experts from across Canada, including producers, packers and buyers. Since 1999, members of the CHC have devoted their efforts to developing an effective HACCP-based (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) food safety program, which began with general guidelines for safe production of fresh fruit and vegetables, and has evolved into a series of crop-specific procedural manuals ready for producers to use on their farms. The result is a program that is practical, comprehensive and based on the best available science.

The CHC on-farm food safety program helps producers work through procedures for good agricultural practices, such as sanitation of buildings and equipment, use of agricultural inputs and employee hygiene. It offers a complete guide for Canadian horticultural producers, providing everything they need to implement the CHC manuals successfully on their farms.

"Farmers across Canada have recognized that they need to be vigilant about their practices to reduce the risk of contamination. Our goal is to provide the industry with a user-friendly, cost effective program to help producers document their actions and take steps to address food safety on the farm from the time of planting until the packed produce is shipped," said Anne Fowlie, CHC Executive Vice-President.

In Saskatchewan, workshops are offered to producers through the Fruit Growers Association, the Vegetable Growers Association and the Greenhouse Growers Association. Please contact one of the association offices if you are interested in training.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the CHC web site at www.hortcouncil.ca/EShome.htm, or
- Contact Connie Achtymichuk, Provincial Vegetable Specialist, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, at 306-787-2755.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	EMAIL
March	"Women in Agriculture" Month			
Mar. 7 - 8	Agroforestry Management Courses	Yorkton, Parkland Regional College; North Battleford, Northwest Regional College (Mar. 12 -13); Prince Albert, Sask Forest Centre (Mar. 27 - 28)	(306) 878-8841 Leroy Bader	
Mar. 12 - 14	North American Wheat Workers' Workshop	University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK	(306) 966-4973	
Mar. 12-15	Sask Association fo Rural Municipalities			
Mar. 14-20	Farm Safety Week			
Mar. 31	Crop Insurance – Deadline to make payment arrangements for 2006 outstanding balances to be insured for 2007	Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation	1-888-935-0000	

EVENTS CALENDAR ONLINE

Events Calendar

So, you have an agricultural event coming up that you would like to publicize?

You want to see what agricultural events are happening in the next couple of months?

SAF has the product for you – the online Events Calendar.

The Events Calendar provides an avenue to announce your agricultural event at no cost. Once you have entered your event into the calendar, anyone who has access to the Internet and SAF's website will be able to view your event.

To view the Events Calendar, just click on "Calendar" from the front page of SAF's website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca.

The Events Calendar screen shows events happening in the current month.

From this page you can view, sort, search and add an event.

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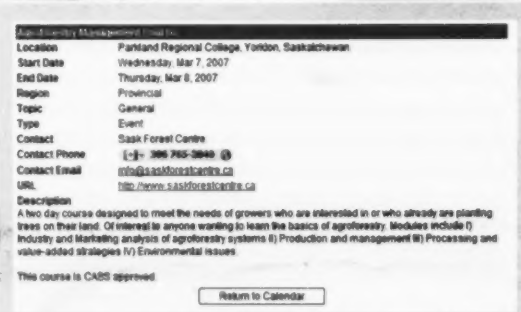
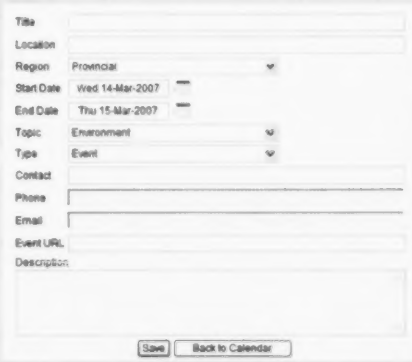

Location Parkland Regional College, Yorkton, Saskatchewan
Start Date Wednesday, Mar 7, 2007
End Date Thursday, Mar 8, 2007
Region Provincial
Topic General
Type Event
Contact Sask Forest Centre
Contact Email info@saskforestcentre.ca
URL http://www.saskforestcentre.ca
Description
A two day course designed to meet the needs of growers who are interested in or who already are planting trees on their land. Of interest to anyone wanting to learn the basics of agroforestry. Modules include I) Industry and Marketing analysis of agroforestry systems II) Production and management III) Processing and value-added strategies IV) Environmental issues.
This course is CABS approved.
Return to Calendar

To view more details about a specific event, just click on any of the titles under a specific date and a window will pop up giving you more details, including location, contact information, and even a website if available.

To add an event, from the Events Calendar page, click on Add Event and a form pops up.



All you have to do is fill in the blanks, and click on Save and your event will be added to the Events Calendar, after being verified by SAF staff.

You can go back to the calendar to view or add more events, or you can check out the other interactive features on SAF's website.

Watch the next issue of Agriview for more details on how to use SAF's new and improved Search function.